

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

NEA-10 SAJ-01 /210 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:JFBECELIA:DAB

APPROVED BY EUR:GSSPRINGSTEEN

EUR/NE:WABUELL,JR.

EUR/WE:RPGALLAGHER (SUBS)

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R 070204Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219365

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT, IT, US, UK

SUBJECT: MALTA: ITALIAN REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR SALIMEI CALLED ON EUR/NE DIRECTOR BUELL NOV. 5 TO REQUEST US SUPPORT FOR GOI EFFORTS TO GAIN EC SOFT LOAN ELIGIBILITY FOR MALTA. SALIMEI NOTED THAT LOAN QUESTION IS ONE OF SEVERAL POINTS OF FRICTION BETWEEN UK AND MALTA WHICH HAVE RAISED ITALIAN CONCERNS OVER POSSIBILITY OF NEW MALTA CRISIS. REFERRING FREQUENTLY  
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TO "DELICACY" OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION,

SALIMEI SAID HIS GOVERNMENT FEARS MINTOFF WILL ACT IN WAY THAT COULD HAVE "SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES" IF THWARTED. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO ITALIANS IS ALLEGED QHADAFI EFFORT TO MERGE LIBYA AND MALTA FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS AND LOCATE HEADQUARTERS IN TRIPOLI. ACCORDINGLY, GOI WAS MAKING DEMARCHES IN LONDON, PARIS, AND COPENHAGEN, TO SEEK BACKING FOR EC LOAN ELIGIBILITY FOR MALTA. SALIMEI SAID GOI WANTED TO BRING SITUATION TO OUR ATTENTION AND WONDERED IF US WOULD URGE UK TO SOFTEN ITS OPPOSITION TO LOANS.

2. BUELL SAID WE WOULD EXAMINE ITALIAN REQUEST, BUT THOUGHT WE WERE UNLIKELY TO PRESSURE BRITISH, WHO ALREADY BEAR CONSIDERABLE BURDEN OF MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIP WITH MALTA ON NATO'S BEHALF. UK POSITION ON NEW LOANS TO GOVERNMENT WHICH REFUSES TO SERVICE OUTSTANDING UK LOANS IS UNDERSTANDABLE. BUELL ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE

ESPECIALLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR US, AS NON-MEMBER, TO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE UK ON EC MATTER. REGARDING MALTA FIR, HE SAID US OPPOSES TURNING OVER CONTROL TO LIBYANS AND THAT WE WOULD WELCOME ANY EVIDENCE OF SPECIFIC MOVES IN THIS DIRECTION. HE STRESSED HOPE THAT WE CAN KEEP NATO RANKS CLOSED DURING WHAT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD WITH MINTOFF.

3. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD INFORM HMG OF ITALIAN APPROACH AND OUR RESPONSE; OTHER ADDRESSES MAY DRAW ON US LINE ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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